



„Die US-Präsidentschaftswahlen 2012“ –

Eine Lehrerfortbildung des US-Generalkonsulats München

mit freundlicher Unterstützung des Bayerisch-Amerikanischen Zentrums

am Dienstag, 15. Mai 2012

im Amerika Haus, Karolinenplatz 3, 80333 München

Der Wahlkampf um die US-Präsidentschaft ist bereits seit der Vorwahl im Bundesstaat Iowa am 3. Januar 2012 in vollem Gange. Am 6. November 2012 wird darüber entschieden, ob Barack Obama eine zweite Amtszeit im Weißen Haus vergönnt ist.

In Deutschland erfreut sich die Obama-Administration auch im vierten Jahr anhaltender Beliebtheit. Dass die US-Medien dem Vorwahlkampf um die republikanische Nominierung viel Beachtung schenken und auch der Ausgang am „Election Day“ im November keineswegs feststeht, ist für hiesige Beobachter oft schwer nachzuvollziehen.

US-Konsulin Leyla Ones wird mit „Elections 101“ einen Überblick über das amerikanische Wahlsystem geben. Wie politisch gespalten das Land ist und welche Gründe es dafür geben mag, erklärt der amerikanische Filmemacher Kelly Nyks anhand seiner Dokumentation *Split*. Der Amerikanistik-Professor John Dean wird sich in seinem Vortrag weiteren filmischen Repräsentationen der US-Präsidentschaftswahl widmen. Die Multimedia-Journalistin Jessica MacLeod analysiert abschließend die Rolle der amerikanischen Medien, insbesondere der neuen Medien und sozialer Netzwerke, im Wahlkampf.

Die Lehrerfortbildung (in englischer Sprache) wird Möglichkeiten aufzeigen, dieses brandaktuelle Thema in den Unterricht zu integrieren. Am Tag der Fortbildung finden beispielsweise in den Bundesstaaten Nebraska und Oregon weitere Vorwahlen statt.

Anmeldung und weitere Informationen:

MunichPA@state.gov oder 089-2888626

Eine Anmeldung ist bis spätestens Freitag, 4. Mai 2012 erforderlich.

Bitte beachten Sie, dass die Teilnahmeplätze begrenzt sind.



Ablauf

- 9:00 Begrüßung und Überblick über das US-Wahlsystem: US-Konsulin Leyla Ones
→ "Elections 101"
- 9:30 Filmvorführung und Diskussion: Kelly Nyks
→ "Split – A Divided America"
- 11:00 Vortrag und Diskussion: Prof. John Dean, University of Versailles
→ "'The Government is Ourselves' – On Screen. Electing & Being the U.S. President as Shown in U.S. Movies & on U.S. TV"
- 12:30 Mittagspause
- 13:30 Vortrag und Diskussion: Jessica MacLeod
→ "The Interplay Between Modern-Day Media and Campaigning"
- 15:00 Verabschiedung durch US-Generalkonsul Conrad Tribble
- 15:15 Ende der Veranstaltung



Zu den Vorträgen:

Elections 101

On Tuesday, November 6, 2012, millions of Americans will vote for the next president and vice president of the United States. In the U.S. Congress, 435 members will be up for re-election, as will a third of the Senate. A brief discussion of the two-party system, primaries and caucuses, conventions, the electoral college, and an election glossary will help set the stage for a more comprehensive discussion of campaign tactics and political partisanship.

Split – A Divided America

Kelly Nyks will present and discuss his award-winning documentary *Split: A Divided America* (2008).

Split investigates perceived partisan divides in U.S. society (Red States and Blue States, Conservatives and Liberals, Republicans and Democrats). It does so by examining the roles of religion, urbanization, race, income distribution, the modern-day media and contemporary campaigning strategies. "How has the United States become so divided?" To find an answer to that question, *Split* journeys from coast to coast. It features candid conversations with citizens from all walks of life and commentary from some of the sharpest minds analyzing government and society. Its illustrious cast includes Rev. Jesse Jackson, political scholar Noam Chomsky, conservative pundit Tucker Carlson and liberal radio show host Al Franken, to name just a few.

The documentary was distributed to classrooms nationwide in collaboration with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) and the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) to educate young U.S. voters in the run up to the 2008 U.S. Presidential Election. It has been updated in 2011.

“The Government is Ourselves’ – On Screen.

Electing & Being the U.S. President as Shown in U.S. Movies & on U.S. TV”

“Let us never forget,” Franklin D. Roosevelt once said, “that government is ourselves and not an alien power over us.” But what’s the difference between the American self in the real U.S. government and the reel, filmed world of U.S. politics? How is – or is not – one the other? And why does this matter?

One reason the question is important might be because any teacher worth their salt needs to know the tasty subjects served up so well by American mass media and its tantalizing entertainments of



ideas and spectacles – which are subsequently consumed in heavy doses by most young people. And U.S. politics and politicians are essential to this delightful, disputatious diet.

The talk on “‘The Government is Ourselves’ – On Screen. Electing & Being the U.S. President as Shown in U.S. Movies & on U.S. TV” will try to provide accessible tools with which to both understand and teach this subject. This will be done with lots of juicy visual examples, and by exploring and trying to explain such questions as: Why, when, and how did the marriage between Hollywood and Washington, D.C. ever happen? How have celebrity politics changed the nature of being a statesman in the USA? What has been the historical accuracy of U.S. cinema when portraying the U.S. Presidency – and does accuracy matter? How and why have movies about U.S. politicians been an expression of their time and place? What has been the evolution of U.S. films about politics, both as distinct genres and as portraits of individual leaders?

Although many U.S. exhibitors and film producers will argue that politics are the kiss of death for movies as far as box office is concerned, nevertheless U.S. films with all kinds of political themes regularly appear. Not least of which are films in the hot political electoral seasons – like right now – and films which show that U.S. politics is not entirely a serious matter. Indeed, at the end of the day and of the show, U.S. politics and politicians are often seen to be a wonderful expression of the human comedy.

Our visual analysis will review the following sizzling six areas, subjects, images, icons, symbols, examples of articulate non-verbal communication and good, accessible, teachable stuff having to do with the U.S. Presidency and politics:

- The President as Hero of the People: D. W. Griffith’s *Birth of a Nation* (1915); Young Mr. Lincoln (1939); Roger Donaldson’s *Thirteen Days* (2000).
- The Imperfect President & Presidency: *Duck Soup* (1933); *Frost/Nixon* (2008).
- Politics & the Presidency as Mediated Puppets: Barry Levinson’s *Wag the Dog* (1997); M. Moore’s *Fahrenheit 9/11* (2004).
- The Rough & Tumble of Politics & Political Parties: John Ford’s *The Last Hurrah* (1958); Vincent J. Donehue’s *Sunrise at Campobello* (1960).
- The Campaign for the Presidency & the Rise of Political Power: Robert Rossen’s & Steve Zaillian’s *All the King’s Men* (1942; 2006); Capra’s *Meet John Doe* (1941); Mike Nichols’ *Primary Colors* (1998).
- The U.S. President on U.S. TV: *The West Wing* (1999-2006); *TV Nation* (1994-1995); the evolution of the U.S. presidential “live” press conference since Eisenhower.

And additional examples in each category as time and tide allows.



The Interplay Between Modern-Day Media and Campaigning

This lecture will examine how modern-day media affect the election campaign and vice versa.

Often, the media's focus seems to be on personalities rather than issues. Campaign organizers and the media appear to agree that voters' perceptions of party leaders have an important impact on elections: Considerable effort is made to ensure that leaders look good, speak well, and that they are up in the polls.

As early as January, the media have paid considerable attention to the upcoming presidential race. A tight primary/caucus schedule guarantees that candidates are constantly in the news.

As social media made significant inroads in the 2008 election, any candidate with hopes to succeed needs to make online engagement a critical part of their strategy in 2012. Republican Tim Pawlenty disclosed his 2012 presidential aspirations on Facebook. Rival Mitt Romney did it with a tweet. President Barack Obama kicked off his reelection bid with a digital video emailed to the 13 million online backers who helped power his historic campaign in 2008.

Still, TV is important. Four TV debates have been scheduled for October. While commentators heavily analyze candidate performances, voters will have to make their final decisions.

Zu den Vortragenden:

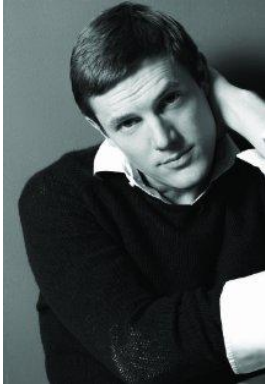
Consul Leyla Ones



Leyla L. Ones began her diplomatic career with the United States Department of State in July 2001. Her first tour in the Foreign Service was in San Jose, Costa Rica as Vice Consul for Consular Affairs. She later worked as a political officer in Maputo, Mozambique where, in addition to covering human rights, counterterrorism and trafficking-in-persons issues, she led Embassy coordination with the United States Agency for International Development and the Centers for Disease Control on HIV/AIDS issues. From 2006-2007, she served as a Watch Officer at the Department of State Operations Center, the 24-hour communications and crisis management center of the Secretary of State and the Department in general. As Deputy Principal Officer in U.S. Consulate Adana, Turkey, from 2007-2010, Ms. Ones carried out public diplomacy programs and covered political/military issues in the Consulate's 22 provinces in eastern Anatolia including Turkey's borders with Iran, Iraq and Syria. There she focused on counterterrorism issues, Kurdish and Alevi minority rights, and trade/commercial outreach. She is currently serving as the Consul for Public Affairs at the U.S. Consulate General Munich. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, Ms. Ones worked for five years in public relations and legislative affairs as a lobbyist in Washington, D.C. She studied international law, relations and organization at Georgetown University and European studies and international law at the Universidad Autónoma in Madrid, Spain. She speaks Spanish, Portuguese, Turkish and German.



Kelly Nyks



Kelly Nyks is a writer/director of short and feature length films. He initiated, co-authored, directed and co-produced the award-winning documentary *Split: A Divided America* (2008).

Nyks is also a successful actor and has appeared in numerous feature films including *Waiting in Beijing*, *Drowning* and *Legally Blonde*.

He currently has several narrative and documentary features in development including a 17th century historical drama set in Taiwan, and an investigation of the influence of money in political systems.

Prof. John Dean, University of Versailles



John Dean is Professor of American Studies and Cultural History at the University of Versailles, Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines, in France. He previously co-chaired the American Studies Program at the University of Strasbourg and was Director of Crosscultural Studies at the University of Syracuse, Strasbourg. Dr. Dean has frequently directed courses on U.S. Cultural Studies and given guest lectures at teacher training workshops in Germany (Akademie für Lehrerfortbildung, Dillingen) and throughout Europe from Sicily to Denmark. He was a Resident Scholar at the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House in Michigan (2002–2005, 2011, in alternate sessions), as well as at the Center for Middletown Studies at Ball State University, Indiana (1998, 2003), and at the Center for Cultural Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz (2001). For years he taught graduate courses at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Colorado, Boulder, during the summer. His research topics include Heroism Studies, the Sociology of Mass Media, American youth culture's evolution in the 20th and 21st centuries, techniques for visual decoding American icons, patterns of corruption and violence in the United States, patterns of social and cultural resurgence in the United States, and ultimately U.S. social reform as traced and illustrated via U.S. popular culture. Among Dean's most recent publications are: "The Importance of the Folk Singer in the American Sixties - A Case Study of Bob Dylan", in *Études anglaises/English Studies*, 2011/3 (Vol. 64), online @ http://www.cairn.info/resume.php?ID_ARTICLE=ETAN_643_0339 ; in the fall 2010, peer-reviewed issue of *Transatlantica – Revue d'études américaines (AFE)*, guest executive editor & writer on the subject of "The Businessman as Artist in American Civilization," online @ <http://transatlantica.revues.org/5035> ; "The Social and Cultural Construction of Abraham Lincoln in U.S. Movies and on U.S. TV," in *American Studies Journal*, No. 53 (2009) online @ <http://asjournal.zusas.uni-halle.de/172.html>; "Heroes in a World of Global Connection: U.S. and European Heroism Compared," in: *Heroes in a Global World*, Cresskill, NJ, 2008; *Organized Crime in the US from Prohibition to the Cold War*, Paris 2002; *Culture and Technology*, Paris 2001; *Media & News in the United States since 1945*, Paris 1997; and *European Readings of American Popular Culture*, Westport, CT, 1996.



Jessica MacLeod



Jessica MacLeod is a 2011-2012 Fulbright fellow and guest journalist in Munich. She graduated with a master's degree in journalism from the University of Maryland, College Park last May where she reported and anchored for her local TV news program. Last summer she interned with and free-lanced for ARD German TV in Washington, D.C. and currently interns at Bayerischer Rundfunk. Her previous work experience includes directing the nonprofit organization THIS for Diplomats, serving diplomats in D.C., and teaching high school German.



Consul General Conrad Tribble



Conrad Tribble grew up in Los Angeles, California, joined the Foreign Service in 1987, and arrived in Munich to assume his duties as the 50th U.S. Consul General on August 7, 2009.

Consul General Tribble served in Santiago, Chile on his first assignment, then spent three years in Washington working on political-military affairs and European security issues. Following two years as the State Department's Germany desk officer (1992-94), he was posted to Bonn from 1994-97. During his first year he worked as an exchange diplomat in the German Foreign Office's EU enlargement division, after which he headed the Embassy's external political affairs section. Returning to Washington, he served two years as Cyprus desk officer and three years managing the U.S. Northern Europe Initiative, a Baltic Sea regional program. As Political Counselor in Port-au-Prince, Haiti from 2003-05, Mr. Tribble worked closely with a UN peacekeeping mission sent to help restore stability after President Aristide resigned in 2004. From 2005-06, he served as a Senior Watch Officer in the State Department's Operations Center. He then attended the National War College at Ft. McNair, Class of 2007, where he earned Distinguished Graduate honors. Most recently, Mr. Tribble led an embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team in eastern Baghdad, Iraq, from 2008 through mid-2009.

The Consul General holds a B.A. in History from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, an M.A. in International Relations from the University of Southern California, and an M.A. in national security studies from the U.S. National War College.

Prior to his Foreign Service experience in Germany, Mr. Tribble spent 1979-80 as a high school exchange student in Niedersachsen, studied at the University of Bonn, and worked as an intern in the Bundestag in 1982. Mr. Tribble is a long-time choral singer as well as amateur rock band musician. He is also a sports junkie; he plays baseball, basketball, and soccer, and has been a Bundesliga fan since 1979. He speaks German, French, Spanish, and Haitian Creole.